

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, October 28, 2004, 8:00 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Jim Hewitt, Thomas Laging, V.J. Nelson, Patrick O'Donnell, Jeff Searcy and Kim Todd present. **Karen Kilgarin absent.**

Others: Bob Ripley (Capitol Administrator); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Dept.)

STATED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Regular Meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

Mr. Searcy called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Approval of meeting notes of August 26, 2004

Mr. Hewitt moved approval of the August 26, 2004 minutes, seconded by Mr. Laging. Motion carried 6-0. Hewitt, Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, Searcy and Todd voting 'yes'; Kilgarin absent.

Application by Capitol Administrator for a Certificate of Appropriateness for adding security cameras on Capitol Square (K, 16th, H, 14th Streets).

Capitol Administrator Bob Ripley began by informing the Commission that they have begun installing additional security around the Capitol. There is now an internal security force in the Capitol that is enforced by the Nebraska State Patrol. The State Patrol has taken the lead in this effort. There is Homeland Security money available to do the work. There are security cameras at the Capitol now that can scan key locations. The emphasis within Homeland Security is to protect the visual icons of government and culture. It has been determined that there is better camera coverage across the street from the Capitol.

The issue before the Commission today is the visual intrusion to the Capitol. There are 8 locations proposed, which have been determined would work best in terms of coverage. There are two choices for the pole color of black or white. The Capitol group that is looking at this issue has determined that black would be less visible and more discreet. They are going to use a smoked glass so that the camera inside cannot be seen. Mr. Hewitt stated that he prefers the white poles.

Ms. Todd moved approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness for the security cameras with the black poles, seconded by Ms. Nelson. Motion carried 4-2. Nelson, O'Donnell, Searcy and Todd voting 'yes'; Hewitt and Laging voting 'no'; Kilgarin absent.

Landmark and Special Permit application at 1943 K Street

Mr. Zimmer stated that he would like to get some direction or input from the Commission on the issue at 1940 K. Previously, the Commission reviewed a new plan for a duplex and a four-plex at this location. This is a 1900 house with a 1908 grocery store addition. The question is whether this building can be viewed as a landmark. The owner would use the grocery store portion for a construction office. The K-L

corridor might be re-zoned into an O1 office district. Right now the zoning is for apartments. The code states that owners of landmarks may request any legal use in any zoning district.

The landmark argument is not really architectural but more building type and mixed use. The Historic Planning Commission has approved this as meeting landmark characteristics. Landmark Special Permits need to show the site plan and exterior changes to the building, describe the uses, offer some financial argument as to why the building couldn't be maintained as it is.

The exterior of the building will be replaced with vinyl. Mr. Laging stated that he has no problem with the use. Ms. Todd agrees, but she does not like the use of vinyl.

The action of the Historic Planning Commission was that the exterior plan come back to them for review. Ms. Todd moved approval of the proposed use with the recommendation for more appropriate siding, seconded by Mr. Laging. Motion carried 6-0. Hewitt, Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, Searcy and Todd voting 'yes'; Kilgarin absent.

Joint Meeting with Capitol Commission

Mr. Zimmer stated that the joint meeting with the Capitol Commission will take place on Tuesday, December 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the State Capitol. Each group will meet prior to that meeting at 9:00 a.m. also in the State Capitol.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Laging stated that the Downtown Plan is recommending that Centennial Mall be used as a street and suggested that the Commission provide input on that issue. Mr. Searcy suggested forming a sub-committee to structure some language to provide to the consultants prior to the final downtown workshop on November 30th.

Mr. Laging stated that there is a lot of student traffic on Centennial Mall. Mr. Ripley stated that the potential for having a very nice outdoor space connected to Pershing has some advantage. Mr. O'Donnell stated that there has been no movement of making the Mall into constructive space, and he is not prepared to quickly dismiss this potential option.

Mr. Zimmer stated that he will gather information and communicate with the Commission. Mr. Laging stated that he will discuss this issue with Polly McMullen of the Downtown Lincoln Association.

On another issue, Mr. Ripley suggested to re-visit the issue of Lincoln Electric System relocating their overhead utility lines around the Malls underground; he will provide further information at the next meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Searcy adjourned the meeting at 9:04 a.m.